

kind that seeps into the tundra or sits in toxic drilling mud pits. It is one big Energy Sacrifice Zone that already spews more nitrogen oxide pollution into the Arctic air each year than the city of Washington, DC.

Allowing this industrial blight to ooze into the Refuge would be an unmitigated disaster. It would be as if we had opened up a bottle of black ink and thrown it on the face of the Mona Lisa.

But why invade this critical habitat for oil if we don't have to?

The fact is, it would not only be bad environmental policy, it is totally unnecessary. Here's why:

1. Fuel economy. According to EPA scientists, if cars, mini-vans, and SUV's improved their average fuel economy just 3 miles per gallon, we would save more oil within ten years than would ever be produced from the Refuge. Can we do that? We already did it once! In 1987, the fleetwide average fuel economy topped 26 miles per gallon, but in the last 13 years, we have slipped back to 24 mpg on average, a level we first reached in 1981! Simply using existing technology will allow us to dramatically increase fuel economy, not just by 3 mpg, but by 15 mpg or more—five times the amount the industry wants to drill out of the Refuge.

2. Natural Gas: The fossil fuel of the future is gas, not gasoline, because it can be used for transportation, heating and, most importantly, electricity, and it pollutes less than the alternatives. The new economy needs electricity, and it isn't looking to Alaskan oil to generate it. California gets only 1 percent of its electricity from oil; the nation gets less than 3 percent, while 15 percent already comes from natural gas and its growing. Alaska has huge potential reserves of natural gas on the North Slope, particularly around Prudhoe Bay and to the west, in an area that has already been set aside for oil and gas drilling called the National Petroleum Reserve. Moreover, we have significant gas reserves in the lower 48 and the Caribbean. The Coastal Plain of the Refuge has virtually none.

3. Oil not in the Refuge: The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska has been specifically set aside for the production of oil and gas. It is a vast area, 15 times the size of the Coastal Plain, and relatively under-explored by the industry. Anything found there is just as close to Prudhoe Bay as the Refuge, but can be developed without invading a critical habitat in a national refuge. In fact, just last October, BP announced the discovery of a field in this Reserve that appears to be as large as Kuparuk, the second largest field on the North Slope. While the potential for oil in the Refuge still appears larger than in the Reserve, the Reserve holds much greater promise for natural gas, so that every exploratory well has a greater chance of finding recoverable quantities of one fuel or the other.

Our dependence on foreign oil is real, but we cannot escape it by drilling for oil in the United States. Energy legislation introduced this week in

We consume 25 percent of the world's oil but control only 3 percent of the world's reserves. 76 percent of those reserves are in OPEC, so we will continue to look to foreign suppliers as long as we continue to ignore the fuel economy of our cars and as long as we continue to fuel them with gasoline.

The public senses that a drill-in-the-Refuge energy strategy is a loser. Why sacrifice

something that can never be re-created—this one-of-a-kind wilderness—simply to avoid something relatively painless—sensible fuel economy?

The latest poll, done by Democratic pollster Mark Mellman and Republican pollster Christine Matthews, shows a margin of 52–35 percent opposed to drilling for oil in the refuge.

The public is making clear to Congress that other options should be pursued, not just because the Refuge is so special, but because the other options will succeed where continuing to put a polluting fuel in gas-guzzling automobiles is a recipe for failure.

Sending in the oil rigs to scatter the caribou and shatter the wilderness is what I call "UNIMOG energy policy." You may have heard about the UNIMOG. It is a proposed new SUV that will be 9 feet tall, 7½ feet long, 3½ inches wider than a Humvee, weight 6 tons and get 10 miles per gallon.

That's the kind of thinking that leads not just to this refuge, but to every other pristine wilderness area, in a desperate search for yet another drop of oil. And it perpetuates a head-in-the-haze attitude towards polluting our atmosphere with greenhouse gases and continuing our reliance on OPEC oil for the foreseeable future.

Now that our energy woes have forced us to think about the interaction of energy and environmental policy, it is a good time to say no to a UNIMOG energy policy and yes to a policy that moves us away from gas-guzzling automobiles to clean-burning fuels, hybrid engines, and much higher efficiency in our energy consumption.

If we adopt the UNIMOG energy policy, we will have failed twice—we will remain just as dependent on oil for our energy future, and we will have hastened the demise of the ancient rhythms of a unique migratory caribou herd in America's last frontier.

We have many choices to make regarding our energy future, but we have very few choices when it comes to industrial pressures on incomparable natural wonders. Let us be clear with the American people that there are places that are so special for their environmental, wilderness or recreational value that we simply will not drill there as long as alternatives exist. The Arctic Refuge is federal land that was set aside for all the people of the United States. It does not belong to the oil companies, it does not belong to one state. It is a public wilderness treasure, we are the trustees.

We do not dam Yosemite Valley for hydro-power.

We do not strip mine Yellowstone for coal.

We do not string wind turbines along the edge of the Grand Canyon.

And we should not drill for oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge.

We should preserve it, instead, as the magnificent wilderness it has always been, and must always be.

IN HONOR OF KAREN SMITH, 20TH GRAND MARSHAL OF THE BAYONNE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karen Smith, who has been selected as the 20th Grand Marshal of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade. Ms. Smith was selected as the Grand Marshal in recognition of her years of dedicated service to Bayonne's Irish American community.

Karen Smith was born in Bayonne, New Jersey to Philip and Frances O'Donnell. She attended St. Vincent's School and the Holy Family Academy. After receiving her BS in Nursing from the College of Mt. St. Joseph in Ohio, Ms. Smith returned home in 1974 and began her nursing career in Bayonne Hospital, where she cares for the sick to this day in the Endoscopy Department.

Ms. Smith takes great pride in serving the Irish American community. She is a member of Ireland's 32 Club, the County Corkmen's Association, the Ticket and Raffle Committee for the annual New Jersey Irish Festival, and the Women of Irish Heritage of the Jersey Shore. She also works for Project Children, which promotes understanding and tolerance by allowing Catholic and Protestant children from Ireland to interact peacefully with each other while temporarily living with American families.

Ms. Smith's many contributions to the Irish American community are a result of her great love for America, Ireland, and the community of Bayonne.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Karen Smith for being selected as the 20th Grand Marshal of the Bayonne St. Patrick's Day Parade.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE RHENEY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Joyce Rheney who on February 14, 2001 was honored as South Carolina Mother of the Year 2001. The Mother of the Year Committee recognizes the dignity of motherhood and the influence that mothers have on their families, professions, communities and churches.

Along with her duties as mother and wife, Mrs. Rheney manages to find time to donate her talents to her community in several capacities. She is a member of Orangeburg City Council, serving her 12th year in office. She is an active representative of the Downtown Orangeburg Revitalization Association board and served as co-chair on the committee to renovate Steyenson Auditorium. She volunteered to serve on the Foundation Board of TRMC and was the 1997 co-chair of the fund-raising gala. The funds raised by this gala are used in the community for hospice cancer patient care and Camp Catch-A-Breath. She was elected president of the foundation for 2000–2001.

Mrs. Rheney is a 1949 graduate of Jefferson-Hillman School of Nursing in Birmingham, Alabama. Her first job was as director of nursing at a tuberculosis sanitarium in Decatur, Georgia. After her move to South Carolina, she accepted positions in the surgical unit of Roper Hospital and later as pediatric head nurse at Saint Francis Hospital in Charleston, South Carolina.

Upon moving to Orangeburg, South Carolina in 1954, Mrs. Rheney immediately became active in the community. She held memberships in the Junior Service League, the Medical Alliance, and the Salvation Army Advisory Board. In the 1960's and 1970's she was an active supporter and volunteer for many activities at Wade Hampton Academy, where her children were students. Mrs. Rheney and her husband, Dr. John Rheney, Jr. are the parents of four children: John III, a local dentist; Betsy, a human resources representative in Aiken; Bruce, a local bank vice-president; and David, a Greenville attorney. The Rheney's raised their children in a loving, Christian home, encouraging them to love God, one another, and themselves.

As South Carolina's Mother of the Year, Mrs. Rheney will represent the state in Portland, Oregon in April at the national convention of American Mothers, Inc., a non-profit, interfaith organization founded for the purpose of developing and strengthening the moral and spiritual foundation of America's families. I am privileged to serve parts of Orangeburg county in this august body, a county which has seen three other of its outstanding women attain the state's Mother of the Year honor. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mrs. Joyce Rheney, for her outstanding work as an exemplary mother and unselfish community servant.

HONORING GEORGE BECKER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, on February 28, 2001, one of this nation's most distinguished and able labor leaders will officially retire. George Becker, the president of the United Steelworkers of America, will formally mark the conclusion of a career that spans 57 years.

During his tenure as the president of the Steelworkers union, he has reinvigorated the union's political presence as a force in the national debate about trade, globalization, and its effects on working men and women. He has been an outspoken critic of free trade agreements, such as NAFTA, that have resulted in the loss of tens of thousands of American manufacturing jobs and a weakening of America's manufacturing and industrial base. He has been a fierce proponent of workers' rights and human rights, especially in China, Mexico, and other developing nations around the world.

George Becker literally grew up across the street from a steel mill; the Granite City mill in his hometown of Granite City, Illinois. He went to work in the mill in the summer of 1944. Besides Granite City Steel, Becker also worked as a crane operator at General Steel Castings, and as an assembler at Fisher Body. He also served on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Becker became active in USWA Local 4804 at Dow Chemical's aluminum rolling mill in Madison, Illinois, where he worked as an inspector. Over the years, he was elected by his co-workers as local union treasurer, vice president, and president. As a result of his hard work and leadership, Becker was later appointed as a USWA staff representative.

In 1975, Becker came to the USWA's International headquarters in Pittsburgh as a staff technician in the union's Safety and Health Department. He helped to establish some of the first national health standards adopted later by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for workers exposed to lead, arsenic, and other toxic substances.

Becker also led the union's collective bargaining in the aluminum industry as chair of the USWA's Aluminum Industry Conference. Later, he also headed the Steelworkers' organizing program and led major corporate campaigns, including a worldwide campaign against Ravenswood Aluminum Corporation and the return to work of 1,600 Steelworkers after a 20-month lockout. The Ravenswood struggle was later chronicled in the 1999 book, titled, "Ravenswood: The Steelworkers' Victory and the Revival of American Labor," by Tom Juravich and Kate Bronfenbrenner.

In 1985, Becker was elected as international vice president for administration. He was re-elected to that position in 1989. He also served as administrative assistant to Lynn Williams after Williams became international secretary in 1977 and international president in 1983.

In November, 1993, Becker was elected international president of the United Steelworkers and was reelected to a second term in November, 1997.

Becker's presidency of the Steelworkers has included many milestones for the union.

In June, 1995, Becker won the support of his Board of Directors to reorganize the Steelworkers from 18 districts in the U.S. into nine districts, increasing efficiency and political strength. In July, 1995, Becker engineered the merger of the 98,000-member United Rubber Workers with the Steelworkers. In 1997, the 40,000-member Aluminum, Brick, and Glass Workers Union also merged with the Steelworkers.

Under George Becker's leadership, the Steelworkers won significant settlements in strikes at Bridgestone/Firestone, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, and Newport News Shipbuilding Company. The struggle at Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel restored a defined benefit pension plan for 4,500 members. The struggle at Newport News Shipbuilding also won significant increases in workers' wages and pension benefits.

Becker also expanded the Steelworkers' political strength by creating a Rapid Response program, which informs and activates local union members to lobby Congress on issues crucial to working men and women. In 1998, Steelworkers generated over 170,000 letters to Congress opposing so-called "fast track" trade negotiating authority, which played a major part in defeating the measure. Becker also initiated a Washington internship program for the union, which brings rank and file members to Washington for an intensive 12-week long session of education about the workings of Congress along with practical experience in the art of lobbying on behalf of the union's legislative agenda.

Becker has become a regular fixture in Washington with frequent appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the Administration, and other government agencies. As one of the vice-presidents of the AFL-CIO, he was instrumental in reforming the labor federation and was a key supporter of John Sweeney as AFL-CIO president in 1995.

On the world stage, Becker is an executive committee member of the International Metalworkers Federation (IMF) and chairman of the world rubber council of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine, and General Workers' Unions (ICEM).

In 1998, Becker was appointed by President Clinton to the President's Export Council and the U.S. Trade and Environmental Policy Advisory Committee; both important forums which he used to speak out on behalf of workers' rights. Becker also served as a member of the Congressional Trade Deficit Review Commission, which conducted extensive hearings in Washington and across the nation on the causes and consequences of the nation's burgeoning trade deficits. Becker's leadership ensured that Steelworkers were prominent in the protests marking the Seattle WTO Ministerial meeting in December, 1999.

Mr. Speaker, George Becker's success as a labor leader has been because of his intelligence, skills, and tenacity. Because of all of those attributes and above all, because he has never forgotten where he came from, his career has improved the lives of millions of American workers and their families. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Steelworkers union president George Becker upon his retirement and for a lifetime of dedicated service to not only the men and women of his beloved Steelworkers union, but all working men and women.

SALUTING THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, February marks Black History Month and its arrival has afforded us the opportunity to spotlight some of the most courageous men in our nation's history. I am referring to the Tuskegee Airmen, African-Americans who were asked to simultaneously fight the institutionalized segregation of their homeland and the battle hardened pilots fielded by the Luftwaffe of dreaded Nazi Germany.

On the very site where some nine thousand Republic Thunderbolt fighters were built during World War II, a permanent tribute has been created by the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale, Long Island that salutes the valor and sacrifice of the Tuskegee Airmen. A full size replica of their P-51 fighter welcomes the museum visitor and helps explain the story of these amazing airmen.

I was honored and pleased to be able to join members of the Tuskegee Airmen, and the many friends of Republic Airport and my constituents in dedicating this exhibit during Black History Month.

Tuskegee Airmen flew more than 15,500 sorties and completed nearly 1,600 missions